Export of sugar

*157. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with Bangladesh to resume private sugar imports which has opened a new window for Indian sugar;

(b) whether Pakistan has also asked for Indian sugar;

(c) if so, what is the total export of sugar to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Brazil and Thailand; and

(d) to what extent more orders have been received?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) India has not signed any agreement with Bangladesh for resuming private sugar imports. However, Bangladesh banned private trade in sugar in March 2003 but has reopened it from August 2003.

(b) to (d) There is no quantitative restriction on export of sugar and is freely exportable by exporters/sugar mills as per their commercial prudence. As per the information received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata about 31173 M.T.s of sugar has been exported to Bangladesh, Pakistan and Thailand during the financial year 2003-2004 (upto July 2003). No sugar has been exported to Brazil during the said financial year.

Enhancement of teledensity

*158. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones sanctioned and working in each State, State-wise;